

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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The Unchanging, Prayer-Answering God

By REV. MONROE PARKER, Th.D., Ph.D.
Assistant to the President, Bob Jones University, Greenville, S. C.

(Sermon preached July 7, 1947, at Third Annual Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism, Winona Lake, Indiana. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."—Heb. 13:8.

We are living in a changeable world. Things all around us change. The geologist takes his pick, digs down into the rocks and discovers that the earth itself has gone through a number of great geological changes. We read in the Bible that some day the heavens will roll up as a scroll and vanish away and every mountain and island be moved out of its place. Nature is changing. This is summertime. The trees are gowned with green. In just a few months the fall will come and they will change to garbs of gold. Nature changes. Customs change. People change. Women sometimes change their

minds, and so do wise men. Nations rise and fall. Kings come to the throne and then lose their power. Dictators come out on the stage of history and then pass away.

Ideas change. Philosophy changes. Thousands of years ago a philosopher came along and said, "I'm a pantheist, a materialist. I believe that everything is God. I believe this desk is God, that bench is God, those trees out there are God; I am God, you are God—everything is God and God is everything." Well, the pantheist is crazy enough, but along comes a bigger fool than he and says, "There is no God." "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1). Then to cap the climax, the modernist comes along and says, "There is a God, but His power is limited." The moment you begin to limit the power of God, you abolish Him, as far as your philosophy is concerned. You do away with God. Therefore, the modernist is the biggest fool in the whole crowd, because the fool who is a fool and does not know he is a fool is a bigger fool than the fool who knows he is a fool. The modernist is an atheist and does not know it; therefore, he is the biggest fool in the whole crowd.

Jesus Christ Has the Infinite Power That Created the Universe

But while ideas about God may change, He never changes. He is "the same yesterday, and today and forever." He is the same in power forever. He is all powerful and ever has been all power-

ful. He has as much power today as He had back there on the morning of creation. He has as much power as He had when He laid the foundations of the earth and stretched forth the heavens. He has as much power this morning as He had back there when He said, "Let there be light" and caused the sun to tear the veil from its face and light the world. He has as much power as He had when He spoke this creation into existence.

Of course, there are those who do not believe God created this world. They believe that everything just happened to come into existence.

Nothing doing, nothing doing on the bottom of the sea,
Nothing working with nothing, an atom to be;
Stop your fussing, argument and strife,
This was the beginning of human life.

One little cell on the bottom of the sea
Generated itself spontaneously.
It afterward grew bones and marrow
And finally became dangerous Darrow.

Six hundred million years ago
Evolution started its growth so slow.
Now, the Garden of Eden is entirely too late
To set the date to begin to create.

Everything is its own creator;
Man is his own originator.
He started in the sea a single cell
Evolution from form to form, it's hard to tell.

So hush, little bug, don't you cry,
You'll be a June bug by and by;
And later, a million years or
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SAMSON

The Heavyweight Champion
Who Lost His Title

By EVANGELIST WILLIAM H. RICE
314 Naperville Street, Wheaton, Ill.

Samson has always been one of the most interesting men in all the Bible to me. When I was a boy in Texas, we had large colored pictures on the walls of our Sunday School room. There was one of David and Goliath, one of Moses, of Noah, Daniel and others, but the one I liked best was of Samson. He had long amber-colored hair that hung to his shoulders and the muscles in his chest and arms stood out like lariat ropes under a rug! And talk about a he-man! He was standing over a lion with one hand on its lower jaw and the other on its upper jaw and he was ripping that lion apart like you can tear paper!

Jack Dempsey was the world's champion heavyweight boxer at the time and I remember I used to wish I could see Jack Dempsey and Samson have a fight! Even Dempsey would have been a push-over for Samson, though, for Samson was by far the strongest man who ever lived. He once killed a thousand men single-handed. God had endowed Samson with supernatural strength.

History tells us a man must have two things in order to become great: real ability and an opportunity to prove it. Samson had both. He was the strongest man who ever lived and his people needed just such a man to lead them in their fight against the wicked Philistines who were oppressing them. He had a wonderful opportunity to go down in history as one of the greatest heroes of all time. But this did not happen. Instead of Samson conquering the Philistines, the Philistines conquered Samson.

Samson the mighty became Samson the weakling, Samson the haughty became Samson the humbled, and Samson the soldier became Samson the slave, for we read:

"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house."—Judges 16:21.

I. The Blinding of Sin

What had happened? The story

is as old as the human race. Samson had been blind to the fearful consequences of sin. The first thing the Philistines did was to put out his eyes, but spiritually he was already as blind as a bat. He was blind to the results of sin. Of course he knew that usually it did not pay to live in sin but he felt he was different. He thought he was tough, he felt he was smart. Wasn't he Samson? Wasn't he the strongest man in the world? Surely he could take care of himself. Of course the ordinary man needed to watch his step but not him—he was different, he was Samson.

A Mountain Boy's Folly

Several years ago I was preaching at a mining camp in West Virginia. There I learned of a seventeen-year-old boy who had suffered a sunstroke that had permanently injured his brain, leaving him feeble-minded. One day he and some friends were crossing the highway when a fast car came whizzing around the curve and down the grade. Someone shouted a warning and all the boys ran to get out of the way—

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Dr. Monroe Parker

Thank You For Praying

By the Editor

Many have been praying for my health and I want to tell you that God has wonderfully answered prayer. From October through January I was grievously afflicted with sciatic rheumatism. Much of the time I had to walk on crutches. Occasionally the doctor gave me narcotics to lessen the pain, for I was in pain much of the time. I stood on one foot to preach in the campaign at Greenville, South Carolina, and Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and the week's services at Evansville Rescue Mission.

Now, thank God, through rest and treatment and the mercy of God I have been completely relieved of sciatica.

The Lord has been very near. All along I was conscious of His blessing and felt that He meant the trouble for good. I am sure of it now.

February 25 I begin a union campaign at the Civic auditorium, Oakland, California, to continue through March 14. I earnestly covet the prayers that many may be saved, that Christians may be greatly lifted up and blessed.

And with all my heart I thank you who prayed.

NEVER ALONE, NEVER FORSAKEN

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, Editor

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."—Heb. 13:5, 6.

"Be content," says this Scripture to our hearts. We have no need of covetousness since God has said to us, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." That means He will certainly provide. Therefore we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Wonderful provision of God for perfect contentment. For the Christian is never alone. The Christian need never be in need, need never covet. And the Christian need never be afraid.

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," is the plain promise of God to His people. The Christian is never alone.

David Livingstone opened Africa, the dark continent, to trade and to missionaries and the gos-

pel. He was in such constant danger, he endured so many privations that only an iron will and strong faith enabled him to press on through the almost insuperable difficulties until he had accomplished his purpose and made contact with the heathen black tribes across the continent. Livingstone said, "I was enabled to go on because I had the word of a perfect Gentleman, never known to break a promise, that He would be with me always." The promise referred to is that of Christ in the Great Commission, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Livingstone, obeying that Great Commission and taking the gospel to Africa, knew that Christ was with him as He had promised,

and every Christian has this same promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," and "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

I. The Lord Is With Every Christian Altogether Apart From His Deservings and His Feelings

This matter of God's presence with His people is not for the favored few, but for all. Every born-again child of God can know that God is with him, has promised ever to be with him, never to forsake him. On this matter we are not to go by our feelings. God is with you when you feel His presence. But He is also with you when you do not feel

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Rev. William H. Rice

Sword Book Club News

In this issue. Don't miss the announcement about the March Selection on page 8 in this paper! If you are not a member of the Sword Book Club, you can still order the book. Perhaps you would like to join the Sword Book Club and thus get not only the new March Selection but get a free book with it! There is a coupon for that purpose. MEMBERS: don't miss "Bread From Bellevue Oven" by Dr. Robert G. Lee, the March Selection!

The Unchanging, Prayer-Answering God

(Continued from Page 1)

more,
You'll be a college sophomore.

Isn't it funny for a fellow to know
That after a million years
or so
That skunk and coon and
possum and bear
Will shed their tails and
curse and swear?

Yes, walk straight up and act
the fool,
Thoroughbreds of Darwin's
school.

Say, there ain't no such a
thing as sin
For monkeys will some-
times be men.

Evolutionists are so very
wise

They solve the mysteries of
the skies.

They rob humanity of future
hope

By filling them full of
Darwin dope.

June bugs and tadpoles and
turkeys and frogs—

All our kinfolk—and so are
the hogs.

Monkeys and gorillas and
baboons and apes—

All our cousins in different
shapes.

At one time a wazzel-tailed
Spingo—

Hear us talk! Oh, what
sweet lingo!

Heading into a mud puddle,
cherug, cherug.

Rah! rah! rah! umph glug!

When you were a tadpole
and I was a fish,

We had all the fun one
could wish;

But, my friends, this is one
monstrous lie;

It's what the evolutionist
says, not I.

How can a thinking, reason-
able human being believe the lit-
tle cell began to generate him-



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D.D., LITT.D.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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self and after a while grew a little wart on his body, moved around with that until it became a leg; after a few hundred thousand years he had a wart just opposite the first one which also became a leg; he had a neck, the sun shined on it and it became an eye; after a few hundred thousand years another eye developed and finally man walked forth, perfect in symmetry. I say, how a thinking person can believe it is beyond me. Practically stated, that is about what the evolutionist believes. I know he does not state it like that.

I have read Darwin's book on *Origin of the Species*. I have read the *Ascent of Man*. I have read after H. G. Wells, Huxley, Spencer. I was studying a pre-medical course once. I was interested in the subject and read all I could on it. Practically stated, that is just about what the evolutionist believes—that man just happened to come into existence. But, my friends, to bring something out of nothing and fashion it into the world involves a power beyond our comprehension. The so-called scientist can no more solve the problems of life or satisfy the great longing in the soul of man with this pseudo-philosophy that puts an anthropoid ape in the manger of Bethlehem and stamps the visage of a hairy quadruped upon the brow of the Son of God than he can raise the dead with a solution of carbolic acid and formaldehyde. You cannot satisfy the longings in the soul of man with that kind of tommyrot. The power of God that brought creation into existence is infinite, omnipotent. The same power that brought creation into existence and formed man out of the dust of the ground and gave him life, we have today. He is the same in power. He has as much power today as He had back there in creation.

Prayer Is the Sure Way to God's Power

God has as much power in one place as he has in another. He has as much power here this morning as He has out across the universe. He has as much power right here as He has on His throne up in Heaven. God is infinite in power, and He is always present. He is the omnipresent God. He is present everywhere—not manifestly everywhere, but present everywhere. He is manifest in glory up in Heaven. The Shekinah glory dwelt in the tabernacle and God was manifestly present. God is present here this morning, and He is very uniquely present where two are gathered in His name. He is here this morning. There is a sense in which all the power of God is right here, because He has as much power in one place as He has in another. The power that created the world is right here this morning in our midst. God is here. And He is the same in His willingness to impart His power to you and to me "yesterday, and today, and forever." He is willing to manifest this power and impart it when we meet the conditions, when we touch the switch of consecration. Electricity is coming through those wires but it does not illuminate the building until the switch is turned. And when we touch the switch of consecration, when we meet the conditions, God is ever ready to do His part. The Spirit of God never fails to do His part. When the Word of God is preached, when the gospel is preached from a pure heart, the Holy Spirit convicts. When Christian people meet the conditions, God does His part. He is willing to impart His power. The trouble is that we do not appropriate the power of God. It is there for us. God has the power today.

He is willing to answer prayer when people pray. The trouble is that we do not pray. We go through forms and ceremonies; we say our prayers; but we do not pray. We are like the man who said his prayers once a year on New Year's Day. Every night when he started to bed he said,

DR. BOB JONES SAYS . . .

"Several days ago a good Christian woman from California wrote us as follows: 'Enclosed please find two dollars to help you just a tiny bit in your great, wonderful work for our dear Lord. I do wish I had a fortune to send you; but as I am very old (82) and have no money except what little is given me, I have to be satisfied in doing the little things. But I know our Almighty God can multiply even the little things to help serve Him. I got a few dollars for Christmas and am so glad to share them with you, hoping and praying that some precious soul may find the Saviour through it. I am so greatly interested in reading of the wonderful work you are doing; and in a way, I can imagine what a terrible burden you have to carry. I don't ask our able God to bless and strengthen you for the work in a special way and supply your every need. I do enjoy your fine little paper so very much and eagerly await each issue. Let me know when the present subscription expires, and I will try to renew. May this new year be one of great victories to our dear Saviour through your work. God bless you.' It occurred to us when we

received this letter that there are thousands of Christian people in this country who could without any sacrifice send Bob Jones University some money to help pay off the deficit on its building program. So I decided to write one appeal just to Christian friends who can send some gift without any real suffering or special sacrifice. Now this appeal is addressed to you Christians who are in position to help us financially and can give this help without having to deny yourselves anything that is necessary to your physical needs. We appreciate the sacrificial gifts of Christian. We have had a good many such gifts. The Lord will not forget the ones who have made these sacrificial gifts. But there are many of you friends who are in position to send a contribution to Bob Jones University and help us do this work for God, and you can do it without any real, honest-to-goodness sacrifice. So please let us hear from you friends right away. We are counting on you. Thank you and God bless you."

BOB JONES,
Bob Jones University
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"Ditto." We say, "Lord, you know what I need. Thank you. Good-night. Amen." We go through forms and ceremonies and that is about the extent of our praying. Oh, we bow our heads at the table when somebody returns thanks. We bow our heads when public prayer is made. We are very reverent, and most of us pray a little bit. We pray enough to keep us God-conscious, but we do not really pray. We do not take hold of God and hold on to God and believe God. No, you do not have to spend hour upon hour upon hour to pray. Some people can pray as much in five minutes as it would take other people all night to pray. Some people have the faith to reach out and take hold of God; but when Christian people pray and believe God, God answers prayer. And if you do not want your prayer answered, don't pray. God always answers prayer when believing people pray.

The Prayers of Bible Christians, Even With Little Faith, Brought Answers

He answered the prayers of the saints of yesterday. Elijah prayed that it would not rain and God shut up the heavens for three and a half years. When he prayed for rain, he had to run to keep from getting wet. God answered Moses' prayer. Moses prayed until God opened the waters of the Red Sea. He answered David's prayer and restored the joy of his salvation. He answers the prayers of those who pray. The trouble is that we do not pray. The saints of yesterday, in the New Testament as well as in the Old Testament, got their prayers answered. Peter prayed. Paul prayed while he was in jail and had his feet in stocks. Paul and Silas prayed the jailhouse down and got the jailor converted.

Peter was in jail and they had a prayer meeting for him across

town. God sent an angel to lead Peter to safety. He went over and joined the prayer meeting. He knocked at the gate, a little damsel came out and went back in and said, "Peter is at the gate."

"Oh, no," they said. "Peter is not at the gate. He is in jail. That is why we are having prayer. We are praying that Peter will get out of jail. He is not at the gate."

She insisted, "Peter is at the gate, too. I saw him out there."

They said, "It isn't Peter. Peter is not at the gate; he is in jail. That is why we are praying." They went out to see. In spite of their lack of faith, God answered. It does not take much faith. They had enough faith to pray. They had as much as a grain of mustard seed. A mustard seed is a small thing, but it has life in it. It is a small thing, but it becomes a big plant. A little faith exercised in a big God becomes a big faith. If you will just pray, if you will just take hold of God and believe, if you will exercise what faith you have, God will do mighty things.

They went out to see if it were Peter, and they said, "It is a ghost. Peter died in jail." They could hardly believe it, but God heard.

He answers the prayers of saints today when they really pray. He has answered prayer for me. I know God answers prayer. This very day He has answered prayer in a remarkable way. Oftentimes He has answered prayer for me. When people pray for revival, God is willing to impart His power. God is willing to send revival. The trouble is that we do not meet the conditions. Now, it is necessary for us to pray. It is imperative. We must pray if we meet the conditions. God says in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Even Salvation by Faith Involves Heart Prayer

We do not have to pray for salvation. You do not have to pray for salvation, but yet, in a sense, you do have to pray for salvation. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." But "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" (Rom. 10:13, 14). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him [not, 'whosoever prayeth to him'] should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It does not say, "Whosoever prayeth," but when you believe, you naturally pray, you naturally call on Him and say, "God have mercy upon me, a sinner, and save me for Jesus' sake." That is an expression of

your repentance. Somebody has said, "Repentance is faith in action." Prayer is an expression of repentance. We do pray in our hearts when we repent, when we come to God.

It is necessary for us to pray in order for God to bless us. He wants to bless us, but we have to pray. When people persistently, faithfully pray, He answers the prayer—always.

God Answers Prayer for Salvation of Sinners

I prayed nine years for an older brother, and God sent me two thousand miles to lead him to Jesus. I prayed my younger brother through college and prayed him into the pulpit. He is now pastor of a great church down in Texas, and God is blessing his ministry. I know God answers prayer. My mother prayed me into the arms of Jesus. When people persistently pray, God answers prayer.

I was down in Anniston, Alabama, and a young man there was under conviction. He said he was going to become a Christian on the fifth of July. He got drunk and was in a wreck on the fourth of July. He was in the hospital, and I went to see him. I was told that I could not see him, that I would have to come back later. I did not get back. Later he came to a service and was deeply under conviction. I tried to see him and talk to him, but I could not see him. His name was Fred Waters. I prayed earnestly for Fred Waters. There was a young lady by the name of Christine Morrison who sang in the choir. She was a talented girl but she was not a professing Christian. I became so burdened for Fred Waters and Christine Morrison that I went upstairs, got down on my knees and said, "O God, if you never save another soul, save Fred Waters and Christine Morrison, and save them tonight." I prayed until I had the assurance that God would answer that prayer. I went down, preached a simple little message, gave an invitation. We sang "Just as I Am." We had an inquiry room. (I do not care where people find God, whether it is in an inquiry room or the mourner's bench, or at the altar, or walking down the street, listening to a radio program or teaching Sunday school, as I was when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour.) But I invited people to the inquiry room, and several came. I stopped at the first stanza and said, "Wait a minute; there is a young man here whom God is calling. We are going to sing the next stanza for him." I had never met Fred Waters personally; as far as he was aware I did not know who he was. We sang,

Just as I am, and waiting,
not
To rid my soul of one dark
blot,
To Thee whose blood can
cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I
come!

and Fred Waters walked out of his place. Instead of going to the inquiry room, he fell on his knees at the altar and began to weep.

I said, "We are going to sing the third stanza. There is a young lady here whom God is calling, and as we sing the stanza, I want her to come. We sang,

Just as I am, tho' tossed
about
With many a conflict, many
a doubt,
Fightings and fears within,
without
O Lamb of God, I come! I
come!

and Christine Morrison walked out of her place in the choir and down to the front, knelt down by Fred's side and wept like a child. I said, "Wait a minute, friends. Stop the singing—wait a minute. Don't you tell me this thing is not real. Don't you tell me that God does not answer prayer. Just before this service started I went upstairs, got down on my knees and said, 'O God, if you never save another soul, I want you to' (Continued on Page 3)

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save Fred Waters and Christine Morrison. Both of them are here on their knees weeping. My friends, do not tell me it is not real."

I was preaching in Southeast Alabama and started up to Jackson, Tennessee, and stopped in the community where my friend Joe Blamberg, was in a meeting. It was his home town. It was Monday night, and they asked me to preach. They said, "We had planned a testimony meeting, but won't you stay and preach?" I first declined, but they insisted. I said, "All right, I'll stay."

Joe said, "I hope so. You know, Monk, you are an athlete and my brother Red thinks the world of you. [Red was a big two-hundred-and-ten pound football player, a fine red-headed fellow, full of life.] I believe he will come to the service tonight if you will preach."

I said, "I'll preach." So Red came in for supper. He was working at a sawmill. Hurrying in to the kitchen, he greeted me and was glad to see me; but he got a bite to eat and said, "Mother, I can't stay for supper; I've got to go back to the sawmill." He ran out the back door, jumped into the truck and started off. I looked around at Mrs. Blamberg and she was crying. She had prayed so long and hoped so much that her son would attend the service that night.

I said, "Mrs. Blamberg, don't cry; let's pray." We went into the living room, got down on our knees and prayed that God would save Red. I became so burdened for that young man that I could hardly eat supper myself. I went over to the service which was being held in a small-town country school and church together. I went out on the baseball diamond behind the schoolhouse and walked from one base to the other. I got to thinking about the power of God. I looked up at the sky and saw the stars. I began to think about what the astronomers tell us about the size of some of those great heavenly bodies. I began to think about what a mighty God we have. I said, "God, You have all power. You put those stars up there. God, You have all power. You can send Red back

to this service tonight. God, send him back here."

I looked down at the ground, walked from one base to the other, back to the home plate, prayed some more, and went around again. I looked up at the stars but could not see them now because God had veiled them with clouds, and a drop of rain hit me on the cheek. I went on to the church and started the service. I got up to preach, opened my Bible to the text, looked up. The back door opened and in walked Red Blamberg. God had sent a heavy rainstorm, he could not get over the roads to the sawmill, and he came back to the service.

I hurried through to the invitation as quickly as I could. I gave the invitation, one person came forward to accept Jesus Christ. It was Red Blamberg. One person came for that purpose, but a whole family came. Joe was at the piano and he stopped the music with a crash, ran to the altar and fell down on his knees by Red's side. Then came Mrs. Blamberg and Mr. Blamberg. They all knelt around Red. I'll tell you, it was a beautiful sight!

Power, God's Best, Available When We Meet His Conditions

When people pray, God answers prayer. The trouble is that we do not pray, friends. So often I have prayed. I prayed my way through college. I have prayed until I have seen souls come to Jesus Christ. I have seen scores and hundreds of them come because of prayer. But there have been times when I failed to pray, and I am so ashamed of it. We have infinite power within our reach if we would just take hold of it. The resources of an infinite God are ours if we will just tap those resources. Of course God will not trust us with more power than we can stand. Our lives must be clean. God will not trust us with power—God will not use a dirty vessel when He can use a clean one. He will not impart power to the person who will not meet the conditions. But I am saying to you that He is willing to answer prayer, He is willing to send a revival. He is willing to send a revival that will sweep America if Christian people will meet the conditions. If orthodox Christian people, if evangelistic pastors and evangelists will meet the conditions, God will send a revival.

You need some help, you need good organization, you need the help of pastors and churches, etc., but I have been in communities and claimed victory and seen victory come when it looked as if it were absolutely impossible. Many people have come to Jesus Christ under those conditions. I am ashamed of it but I have held meetings and seen a few people come and have been satisfied. I had a pretty good meeting, and have felt very well about the situation. The trouble was I let the good become the enemy of the best. I had the good. I had good meetings. There was the preaching of the Word of God. I preached things that ought to stir people, and was earnest and had a passion for souls. And, God being my Judge, I would die if it would save one more soul than it would for me to live and preach the gospel.

I have put my life on the altar of evangelism. I am connected with a university, and I feel that my main work is there; but it is there for one purpose, and that is to turn out evangelists and evangelistic pastors and Christian leaders in other walks of life. My life is on the altar of evangelism; and, God being my Judge, since I answered the call to preach that night, have been all out for Christ.

I had not wanted to preach before that. I have been in earnest about this thing. I had my own plans.

I said, "Let me walk in the fields."

He said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the skies are black;

There's nothing but noise and din."

And He wept as He sent me back;

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "I shall miss the light, And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered, "Choose tonight,

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given; He said, "Is it hard to decide?"

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

Then into His hand went mine, And into my heart came He; And I walk in a light divine— The path I had feared to see.

Since that night in the spring of 1929 when I answered the call to preach I have been in earnest about this thing. There never has been a time when I did not feel that the paramount thing in life, the most important thing, the only thing in life is doing the will of God and winning souls for Jesus Christ. So often in my human weakness I have made mistakes and got in God's way, but I have always prayed that God would run over me when I got in His way. Sometimes He has done that. I have meant business; but there have been times that I have let the good become the enemy of the best. And that is the trouble with many of us evangelists and pastors and the rest. We love the Lord but are satisfied to be mediocre. We are not all Elijahs. We are not all John Rices and Bob Jones and Appelmans. Most of us are willing to hit on just a few of the cylinders we do have. Some of us are not eight-cylinder cars. Some of us are just four-cylinder cars and six-cylinder cars; but some of us who are six-cylinder cars are content to hit on five cylinders when we ought to be hitting on all six cylinders. That is what I mean by letting the good become the enemy of the best. We are content to have pretty good meetings. Oh, for a faith that will claim big things for God!

Power Over Mountains and Giants if We Claim It

When I started to preach today I felt that God was leading me. I did not mean to preach this type sermon in an evangelistic conference. I had started to preach on "Give Me a Mountain." Joshua was one of those ten spies who went up to spy out the Promised Land. He came back and gave a faithful report. The other ten said, "We cannot take the land

because there are giants in the land. We are like grasshoppers in their sight." Joshua believed that they could, and he told the people, "We can take it."

But God said, "No, they will not believe," and they had to wander along with the rest of them for forty years. When they finally came into the Promised Land and Joshua was dividing the land he said, "All right, Caleb, you can have your choice."

Caleb said, "Give me this hill country. It was forty-five years ago that I came to this country. Moses sent us up here. The other spies who came with us said that we could not take that land. I contended in those days that we could, but we were forbidden to go in and had to put it off; but if you will give this hill country, it may be that God will give me the strength [he had the courage] to drive out the giants." And do you know that that old man, eighty-five years old, went down there to the land that later became Judea and drove out those giants. He never did give up. It might have been stubbornness—I do not know. He had said forty-five years before that, "We can take this land." When he finally got a chance, when Joshua said, "What do you want, Caleb?" he said, "I want the chance I asked for forty-five years ago. I am going to take this hill country. Do not give me an easy job. Give me a mountain."

God give us mountains! God give us the faith to claim mountains! We can have big things because we have a big God. God is here. The trouble is, we just do not meet the conditions. We do not seem to have a vision. But God's power is sufficient.

God Is Begging You to Take

I said that God is willing to impart His power. Now I say that He is able to impart His power.

In Bowling Green, Kentucky, a young woman came forward in the service four nights, the last four nights of the meeting. Personal workers tried to help her. I went over to her the second night she came and dealt with her a little while, talked to her about her troubles and prayed with her. I read to her John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

I said, "All right, do you believe the Bible?"

She said, "Yes."

"Do you believe in Jesus?"

She said, "Yes."

I said, "I do not mean, do you believe about Jesus? I want to know if you believe in Jesus?"

You know there is a difference, friends. A man may believe in his head but not believe in his heart. That Greek word *pisteuo* does not mean "I give mental assent to"; it means "I trust, I lean upon, I put my faith in." It means to trust yourself upon Jesus.

I went into a store to buy a watermelon. I picked out a nice one and said, "How much is it?"

The waiter said, "Sixty cents."

I handed him a dollar bill. He said, "I do not have the change."

I reached into my pocket and had only two quarters. He said, "Just give me that and I will trust you for the dime."

I said, "You'll trust me?"

He said, "Sure."

I said, "You do not know me."

"No," he said, "but you can drop in and give me a dime some time. I would trust you for a dime."

I said, "Well, that is mighty nice. I'll tell you what you do: you just trust me for the whole sixty cents. I will drop in and pay you later."

He said, "Well, I don't know you, sir; I don't think I could do that."

I said, "I thought you would trust me. You don't trust me. You are just taking a ten-cent chance on me."

You know, a lot of people who think they trust Jesus, do not trust Him. A lot of people are taking a ten-cent chance on Jesus. They say, "Oh, yes, I believe." But it is in their heads that they believe, not in their hearts. I wonder if they truly believe it in their heads. They are convicted, they are convinced; but they have not gotten beyond that point. They came up to the point of conviction

and thought, "Now if we say that we believe we will throw off conviction," and that is what they do—they go to Hell saying, "I believe." "Everybody's talking about Heaven ain't a-going there."

Somebody said yesterday, "We are not saved by faith and works; we are saved by faith that works. If it isn't working faith, it isn't saving faith." If you do not live the life, you must not have the life. One characteristic of life is that it is alive. In fact, that is about its main characteristic. Life lives. It seems to me that if you have life you are doing some living. I know it is Christ who lives it in me, but we will see life there if you have it. Everybody who says he has it does not have it. We fall so short so often. But He is with us.

I said to this girl, "Believe."

She said, "I believe in Christ."

"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). I said, "Do you believe this Book?"

She said, "Yes."

I said, "Does this Book say that if you believe in Jesus you may know that you are saved?"

She said, "Yes."

I said, "Do you believe in Jesus?"

She said, "Yes."

I said, "Are you saved?"

She said, "No." I went over it again and again and again. She went away without assurance. I did everything I could. I prayed with her. She wanted to pray it through. I said, "All right, we'll pray it through." We got down and prayed a little while. I thought maybe that would help. She had all those ideas about having to beg God to save her. I begged God to save her, and I was glad to hear her call upon the name of the Lord. I told her that meant she had faith and then tried to give her assurance on the basis of the Word. But I could not seem to get her through. Others came around. Somebody beat her on the back and, as you have often heard, said, "Let go." Somebody else said, "Hold on."

The next night, the last night of the meeting, just before I closed the service she was still there. Others came and found Christ and went away rejoicing and happy. She was praying that God would save her. I was patient with her, but I said, "Ann, wait a minute. You quit praying to God. God is praying to you." She looked up at me and I said, "Yes, God is praying to you. You are saying, 'O God, please save me, please save me.' And God is saying, 'Ann, let Me save you, let Me save you.'" She looked at me with a quizzical expression. I said, "Yes, God is praying." I went and got from my suitcase Moody's little colporteur book, *The Way Home*, and gave it to her as we left. I said, "I am praying for you, Ann, but remember God is praying to you."

A few days later I got a beautiful letter and she said, "I have answered God's prayer. I have let God save me." But friends, God is praying. He is praying to the sinner, of course. We are a group of Christian people primarily, and He is praying to the Christians. We pray, "O God, give us power." And God says, "My children, let Me give you power." We say, "O God, send a revival." And God says, "My people, let Me send a revival." He has the power. God does not have to pray for power to send a revival. He is praying for a channel. God is interested in this business. The battle is not ours, it is the Lord's.

Oh, yes, prayer is proper. We have to pray if we have that power; but remember that God is praying that we will form the channel through which He can send His power to us. He will do it!

I have prayed that God would lead very definitely this morning in this service, that He would help us to put ourselves in a position where He can speak to us and use us, just make us willing. I am not trying to preach a homiletical sermon. I could do it; I have some points on this. I could go on to tell you that He is the

(Continued on Page 4)

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Never Alone, Never Forsaken

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His presence. God is with you when your heart is happy and your faith is high. He is also with you when you are downcast and discouraged and unbelieving.

When Jacob, going away from home where he had sinned and earned his brother's wrath, went to sleep at Bethel with his head on a pillow of stone, the Lord was with the prodigal boy. Jacob, awaking, was astonished at the vision of a stairway to Heaven and made holy vows which he never forgot. He said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not" (Gen. 28:16). He could as well have said the same everywhere he ever went. He never got away from God.

When Jonah, the rebellious prophet, determined not to preach at Nineveh as God had commanded and got on a ship to Tarshish, he was not alone. God was on the ship with the rebellious preacher. Do not think that God followed Jonah in anger. A great fish was prepared which swallowed Jonah when he was cast overboard, and God was with Jonah in the fish. He heard Jonah's prayer and delivered him after three days. So God is with every Christian who is out of duty or rebellious. God cannot give the backslider the same joy, the same blessing he would give to an obedient, surrendered child.

God may terribly chastise His sinning children, as He did Samson, David and Lot. But still God's promise is true, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." You see, salvation is of grace and not of works. And this blessed promise never to leave, never to forsake, God gives along with salvation. It is a part of God's wonderful salvation. The one God saves, He keeps. The one He makes His own child, He never deserts.

Elijah, after his marvelous victory on Mount Carmel and the slaying of the prophets of Baal and Ashtaroah, was threatened by the wicked queen Jezebel. Despairing of his life, he ran away—ran away from the minis-

try, ran away from duty, ran away from God. But wait! It is true he ran away from duty and ran away from the place of ministry, ran away from danger, but he could not run away from God. And when Elijah went a whole day's journey into the wilderness, running for his life, and sat down under the juniper tree and begged to die, God was with him. It was not time to argue with a tired and distraught prophet. As he slept the sleep of exhaustion, God sent an angel to tenderly prepare a meal and serve him. After he had eaten, Elijah slept again until the angel woke him the second time to eat. Then Elijah, still discouraged and frightened, went forty days to Mount Horeb and lodged in the cave there, but God made Himself known to him again, gave him more work to do and encouraged his heart. Oh, how glad I am that for all his swift running, Elijah could not run away from God! For all his discouragement and bitterness, God did not forsake him.

This wonderful truth that God never leaves His own was a marvel and a joy to David. In the 139th Psalm, verses 7 to 12 David says by divine inspiration:

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

In some sense God is present with every person in the world. But in a peculiar and special sense He never leaves a Christian. It is His blessed promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." If the psalmist should ascend up into Heaven, he would find God there. If he should make his bed in Hell

(sheol, the realm of departed spirits, that is, in death), God would be there with him. If he should take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, there God's hand would lead him and His right hand hold him and protect him. Even in the night God was with the psalmist as much as in the day. No circumstance, no distance could change the fact that God never leaves His own, never forsakes His children.

II. The Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian Always, Never Leaves Him

It is not in some abstract or figurative sense that God is with a Christian. No, the Holy Spirit Himself, the third Person of the godhead, lives literally in the body of every Christian. We sometimes say, "Let Jesus come into your heart." But what we really mean is that a lost sinner should by trusting Christ as Saviour allow Christ's own personal representative, the living Spirit of God, to come into his body to dwell there forever. First Corinthians 6:19, 20 says:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Christians need to learn this blessed truth. The Holy Spirit now lives in the body of every Christian.

Again Romans 8:9 says:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the

Spirit of Christ, he is none of us."

Every person who is saved has the Spirit of Christ, that is, the Holy Spirit Himself sent from Christ, dwelling in his body.

The Holy Spirit, in Old Testament times, came upon men but did not continually abide with men. Jesus said in John 14:17, "... for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Notice that the night before Jesus was crucified He said that the Holy Spirit was then with the disciples. But after His resurrection the Holy Spirit would be in the disciples, that is, would make His abode in them.

In John 7:39 the Holy Spirit had been promised to all that believed. "... for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." But when Jesus was glorified, risen from the dead, and met the disciples in the upper room, then He breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22). They received the Holy Spirit literally in their bodies. Now, at salvation, He comes in to stay.

The blessed Holy Spirit, then, lives in our bodies, as His home, His abiding place, His temple, and He never, never will leave one of His own.

In the Old Testament times the Holy Spirit came upon men, but did not abide with them continually. In that dispensation David prayed, "Take not thy holy spirit from me" (Psa. 51:11). But he did not refer to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which no child of God then had. He referred to the anointing for service, the conscious leadership and power of the Holy Spirit. A Christian may

lose the consciousness of God's presence. He may lose the sweet witness of the Holy Spirit in his own heart. But, thank God, he cannot lose the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit which every child of God has, since Jesus rose from the dead and breathed on His disciples and commanded them to receive the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit stays continually in the body of a Christian now. And if this body be laid away in the grave to await the resurrection, the Holy Spirit faithfully waits too, to raise that body again from the dead. For Romans 8:11 says: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

In the book, *Twelve Tremendous Themes*, I have told how Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, preaching at Dayton, Ohio, to a Bible conference of ministers and workers, once said the following: "I was sitting in my home in the country reading the account of an address delivered by Dr. Moorehead at a Bible conference, and he said he believed it was true that when one became a Son of God the Spirit of God came into him to dwell, and he continued to dwell always. I don't know but that in some way unknown to me he will continue to abide, even though in the tomb, until the resurrection morning. But," said he, "if any of my brethren deny me the privilege of this belief, I will say, when I became a son of God, the Spirit of God came into my life, and he continues to

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The Unchanging, Prayer-Answering God

(Continued from Page 3)

same in love and the same in mercy. I could talk about the fact that His mercy endureth forever, but I want to stop on this point. God is praying. God is pleading. God is calling you and me, calling us for a closer walk, calling us to have clean lives. He wants us to be so in touch with Him that we can work in us. I said it before I came here, "I said it the other night, I think I pray it almost every day: I do want to be where God can use me. I do not want anything to stand in the way. The Devil fights the children of God, servants of God. I have walked in victory for eighteen years. I have walked with Christ. I have had victory. His power has worked in me and through me, sometimes in spite of me, I am afraid. The Devil would keep us from having the power of God if he could. He would divert our attention. He would try to slow us down by puffing us up with intellectual pride—most of us do not have the intellect, you know, but the pride. He would get us to analyzing the gospel.

Dr. Jones often says that the difference between an old preacher and a young preacher is that an old preacher gets to analyzing the gospel and a young preacher goes out and proclaims it. God says the proclamation of the gospel, the preaching of the gospel, the preaching of the cross is power to those who believe and that it is foolishness to those who perish. The old preacher so often analyzes and gets technical. It is all right to know the Word of God and study it, but let us remember that this Book is to use in serving Christ and reaching others. Let us make it not an end within itself but the means to an end. And if the Devil cannot lead you away

into sordid things and bad, base things, he will get you to let the good be the enemy of the best. It is not easy to keep your perspective, you know. I think God is calling us to new effort in soul winning, in evangelism, calling pastors who are here to do the work of an evangelist. He is calling the evangelists, of course, to do this work. God help us to answer His prayer. He has answered so many prayers for me. He has supplied my need. He has solved problems for me. He has given me comfort in dark hours, in times of sorrow. He has given me victory. He has let His power come down upon me. He has been so good to me, I cannot say, "No" to Him. He records in His Word that He will answer every prayer I pray, every one. I cannot refuse to answer His prayer. He is praying this morning. He is saying, "Monroe Parker, I want your life, all of it." I have given it to Him, but He is reminding me that it is His and wants me to keep that foremost in my mind. He is saying to you this morning, "I want your life, all of it, every compartment of it, every ounce of it. Everything that you have, I want." And when we do that, that is revival; the revival is on when we do that. Have you done it? I am not asking you if you have preached with power some time or other. I am not asking you if you have won souls to Jesus Christ. I am not asking you if you have an insight into His Word and if you have taught somebody or helped some Christian along the way. I am not asking you if you are the pastor of a great church on which the power of God has fallen. I am asking you, "Does God have every bit of you?" If He does not, He is praying for you to yield yourself to Him. That is revival.

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Never Alone, Never Forsaken

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abide through life, and then if I am placed in the tomb he will still hover over me. He hovers over that tomb keeping watch until day breaks in glorious resurrection. I could not read the closing sentences, for the tears had filled my eyes, and I told my man to hitch the horse to the carriage, and my wife and I rode out to the little grave where we had buried our first-born boy, and as we stood there that morning we said, "Thank God, he is keeping watch, and peace filled our souls. And I shall never forget going across the country to stand beside the grave of my mother, and I said, 'Thank God, thank God, for thirty years he has been keeping watch, and when the morning breaks he will lift them up, to be united by the Spirit again—the body in the grave and the spirit in His presence.' That is the work of the Holy Ghost."

Oh, blessed truth that the Spirit of God makes Himself somehow a part of the Christian, dwells in the Christian's body, and never leaves!

A man wrote me the other day in deep distress because his wife said that the Holy Spirit had departed from her. But she was mistaken. She was judging the Holy Spirit by her feelings instead of by the sweet promises of God. If she grieved the Spirit of God by sin and quenched Him by disobedience, it might well be that He ceased to speak to her heart consciously. He did not make His presence manifest as He loves to do. The Holy Spirit cannot excuse and cannot condone unrighteousness and sin and rebellion and filthiness in a child of God. He is a grieved guest in a home that is defiled—that is, in the body-temple of the Christian who is worldly and carnal. A guest in your home might be grieved by drunkenness and ribald speech and quarrels and hate, so that He would withdraw to his own guest room and have as little communication with the family as possible. Perhaps something like that takes place in a carnal and worldly Christian, except that the Holy Spirit is not a guest. He is at home. The Holy Spirit cannot bring the joy and peace and longsuffering and gentleness and goodness and meekness and faith and temperance, etc., which He longs to produce in every Christian. But there He stays. That is His home. That is His temple, His abiding place! The Holy Spirit never leaves a Christian.

Sometimes people say, "If you go to the dance, or to the theater,

the Holy Spirit will not go with you." But they are mistaken. The Holy Spirit goes everywhere the Christian goes. He goes everywhere His temple, His house, goes. He may go grieved and hidden, but He goes. He may not make glad the heart where He dwells, but He does not leave. You see, the Holy Spirit does not leave a Christian because He does not dwell outside but inside. He is not so much a companion as He is an inhabitant. He literally dwells in the body of every Christian. He does not visit. He abides.

You see then that it is a literal truth in this blessed promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." The sweet Spirit of God stays with the Christian, stays in the Christian always.

How often the Spirit of God must take part in the chastising which the Father gives His child! The Holy Spirit stirs up the accusing conscience. The Holy Spirit makes sharp the memory of sin. "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath agitated thee . . ." said Jesus (Matt. 5:23). How strange that one remembers so well, remembers sin, when he goes to pray! No, it is not strange because the Spirit of God Himself who is grieved by sin in the Christian, where He dwells, quickens the memory and makes hard the pillow and stony the path of the child of God who goes astray. God whips His children. The Holy Spirit rebukes the Christian. But, thank God, the Spirit never leaves a Christian, but abides in his body until death and at the resurrection will raise up the body and make it living and glorified like the body of Jesus.

III. The Heavenly Father's Love Never Lets Go His Child

Jeremiah was the prophet of doom. He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, the captivity of the people seventy years in Babylon. But Jeremiah was not allowed to leave out the love of God for Israel. "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jer. 31:3). God loves Israel with an everlasting love. Israel turned away to serve idol gods. They stoned the prophets that God sent unto them. God turned their cities over to heathen armies. He allowed Nebuchadnezzar to burn down their palaces and destroy their temple. Multitudes were slain and the disconsolate remnant were carried captive into Babylon. But God still loved them with an everlasting love and never let them go.

God told the Prophet Hosea to go and love an adulterous woman, to be an object lesson of the way God loved rebellious Israel, defiled with the spiritual whoredom of Baal worship. And God will yet regather a remnant of the nation Israel and restore them to their own land under His rich blessing. And Christ, the seed of David, will sit on David's throne to rule them. But it will not be because of the merits of Israel. It will be because of God's unchangeable, everlasting love.

In Malachi 3:6 God said, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

But this unchangeable love of

God for Israel—is that for Israel only? Is it not also for all of His born-again children? We know, in fact, that many Jews were unconverted. And those who died without faith in the Messiah, without being born of God, went to their own place, to eternal ruin. God's love and unchangeable promises are for the nation, not every individual, Christ-rejecting Jew. But it is not so with God's own children, His born-again ones. If God loves the nation Israel with an everlasting love, then God loves every born-again Christian with a love that can never change. God cannot forsake His own because of His love.

The closing verses of the eighth chapter of Romans tell of this wonderful, unchangeable love of God for His people. Sometimes it is called the love of God; sometimes it is called the love of Christ. Never mind, both the Father and the Son love the children of God alike. Neither will ever let us go. The same chapter tells of the marvelous ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Christian.

But let us read here of the unchangeable love of God from which a Christian can never be separated. In Romans 8:31-39 is the following marvelous passage. Be sure to read it carefully.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loveth us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Oh, one thing I can say in my defense! God loves me! Who is he that can condemn me, when Christ died for me? Who is he that can ruin me when God still loves me and ever loves me and loves me? What harm, what real and permanent and eternal harm can come to me when I cannot be separated from the love of God?

Here Paul tells us how he is persuaded, convinced that "neither death, nor life" can separate us from the love of God. Nothing dead, nothing living can separate us from the love of God.

"Nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers" can separate us from the love of God. All the angels of Heaven, all the fallen angels in Hell, are powerless to come between us and the love of God. Principalities on earth, principalities in the air, neither the powers of the earth nor the powers of the bottomless pit can separate us from the love of God!

"Nor things present, nor things to come," the apostle says. Neither anything in the present tense, nor anything in all the future can ever separate me from the love of God which is in Christ.

"Nor height, nor depth"—that is, nothing all the way up to Heaven and nothing all the way down to Hell, can separate me from the love of Christ. Praise His name!

And then the apostle adds this strange and wonderful phrase, "nor any other creature." After naming things all the way up to Heaven and all the way down to Hell, things of the present, things of the future, life and death and angels and principalities and powers, then the apostle assures us that nothing else God ever created, no creature or created being or thing, can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Oh,

the unchangeable love of God for His people!

In view of this love we can well believe what He promises, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

A wonderful argument is given back in Romans 8:32. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" If anyone doubts the love of God, he need only go back to Calvary. When God gave His own Son He proved that He loves us enough to give us any thing else. How can God withhold from us anything good when He gave His own Son to suffer the torments of the damned to save our souls by His death on the cross?

I talked to an arrogant, proud woman, a woman who had been deliberately rebellious against God. She told me she did not believe what I preached. She was angry at God over the death of a loved one. She had been proud and haughty about her good deeds. But when I looked into her wan, sad face and told her that God loved her, her lips began to tremble and she said, "He does not! He could not!"

"Yes," I said, "God loves you. He loved you so much that He let Jesus die for you to keep you out of Hell. He loves you!"

Again she insisted, "I don't see how He could!" But suddenly she began to sob and in a few moments her rebellion was melted away and she surrendered to Christ. She could not continue to fight against the love that God has as proven by the death of His Son on Calvary.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

God's eternal, inseparable love, manifested by the gift of His dear Son, proves that He will never leave us, never forsake us.

Oh, Christian, here is an end of all fret and worry! Here is the way to perfect peace and contentment! Learn this lesson today, I beg you, that a child of God is never alone, never forsaken.

My mother lay on her deathbed and called for the song, "How Firm a Foundation." There was holy joy as she clapped her thin hands and praised God over the assurance of those verses which she had sung so many times.

When thro' the deep waters
I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall
not overflow;
For I will be with thee thy
trials to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy
deepest distress.

When thro' fiery trials thy
pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient,
shall be thy supply;
The flames shall not hurt thee,
I only design
Thy dress to consume, and
thy gold to refine.

E'en down to old age all My
people shall prove
Thy sovereign, eternal, un-
changeable love
And hoary hairs shall their
temples adorn
They still shall like lambs
in Thy bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus hath
leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert
to his foes;
That soul, tho' all hell should
endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no never
forsake.

Trouble? How can there be any real trouble when God is with us always, leaves us never, forsakes

us never? We might well sing in the words of another old song.

Go, then earthly fame and
treasure!
Come, disaster, scorn and
pain!
In thy service pain is pleasure,
With thy favor loss is gain.
I have called thee, Abba,
Father!
I have stayed my heart on
thee;
Storms may howl, and clouds
may gather,
All must work for good to
me.

Nothing can happen to a Christian but by God's permission. Nothing can last longer than God allows it. No incident can arise except to the blessing of the lover of God. For He has promised that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). God Himself, our loving heavenly Father, is with us all the way and never forsakes us. And His presence and His unfailing love guarantee a blessed ending to whatever befalls a Christian! Thank God, the Christian is never alone.

IV. Christ Ever Liveth to Make Intercession for His Own. He Never Leaves Us to Our Sins

There is rich meaning in Christ's promise in the Great Commission, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Not only fellowship is promised, but far more than that. Jesus has taken upon Himself a certain job to do for us. He is at the right hand of the Father now praying for us, interceding for us. He will never leave us with our sins uncovered, never leave us guilty and condemned before the Father.

The seventh chapter of Hebrews makes much of the thought that Jesus was greater than Melchisedec, and greater than the Levitical priesthood. Other priests had a temporary priesthood because they died. But Hebrews 7:24, 25 tell us:

"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

What a high priest He is! "Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens," He offered up Himself for our sins and now "ever liveth to make intercession" for us.

What is Jesus doing now? He is praying for us! He continually takes our place before God the Father in Heaven, standing for us, defending us, praying for us!

This blessed promise is repeated in I John 2:1: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

We have an advocate with the Father. We have a lawyer in Heaven! We have a mediator pleading our case!

Jesus died for me once. That was enough. But every day, always, He intercedes for me with the Father. He is my High Priest.

You remember that Jesus prayed for Peter. He said, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not" (Luke 22:31, 32). Jesus even told Peter that before the cock should crow Peter would deny Him three times. How much more Jesus knew about Peter's heart than Peter knew!

It is a terrible thing to think of being sifted by Satan. Would you tremble if you thought that Satan was pleading with God, "Give me a chance at him! Let me really tempt him! I can take him away from You if You'll give me a chance!" Would you not feel great concern if you knew that Satan would be allowed to bring great temptation, a great sifting, a great trial upon you, trying to break your faith and ruin your life? Well, Satan did wish to sift Peter. You remember that Satan had also appeared before God and begged for the chance to persecute Job and had

(Continued on Page 6)



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Never Alone, Never Forsaken

(Continued from Page 5)

received that opportunity. But God kept Job and so God kept Peter in answer to the Saviour's prayer.

Peter denied the Saviour. That was a terrible sin, but Christ did not let him go. Remember that Christ had prayed for Peter and the prayer of the Lord Jesus pulled Peter's heart back to penitent confession and pulled him out of the sifting hands of Satan. For Peter was God's child and Jesus would not let him go. "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not," Jesus said to Peter.

Oh, I know that God answers prayer. My prayers are frail. I sometimes ask amiss. But not so with the prayers of my Saviour, my High Priest, my interceding Saviour! His prayers avail for me. His intercession is sufficient. Oh, the Lord Jesus who would not give up Peter will not give up any of His own.

V. The Christian's Eternal Safety Is Guaranteed Because He Is Never Left Alone, Never Forsaken

You ask me if I believe in the eternal safety of a Christian? I confess that I do. And I want you to see that my safety is altogether based on this blessed fact that a Christian is never left alone, never forsaken. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have combined in their promise and so combine in their work to keep the Christian. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," says the loving heavenly Father. "Lo, I am with you always," said the Lord Jesus, the Son. Then the Father and the Son combined to send the blessed Holy Spirit to the Christian. Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER: Even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17).

In John 6:37 this combination of Father, Son and Holy Spirit's keeping the Christian is emphasized. There Jesus said: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." It is the Father who gives the penitent one to Jesus. And it is implied here and elsewhere clearly stated that the Holy Spirit seeks the sinner and turns his heart to God. And then when the sinner turns to Christ for mercy and forgiveness he has this promise, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." That is another way of saying that Jesus will never leave one who has trusted Him for salvation, will never cast him out, will never disown him, never forsake him.

The same meaning is in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come unto condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." It is Jesus talking and He promises that one who comes to Him in faith, "shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." That "shall not" sounds like the blessed promise of Romans 8:38, 39 that nothing in the universe, present or future, dead or alive, all the way up to Heaven or all the way down to Hell could ever separate one from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

This combination of the Father, and Son to keep those who come for salvation is expressed clearly by the words of the Saviour in John 10:27-29.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Notice these blessed promises to God's sheep.

"I give unto them eternal life." It is given, not earned. It is based on God's mercy and grace, not on man's works. And it is eternal life.

"And they shall never perish."

Never is a long time! God's sheep never perish.

"Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Note that the word *man* is in italics in your Bible. That means it is not in the Greek New Testament but is simply supplied by the translator to make the meaning clearer. However, what Jesus really said is, "Neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." Neither man nor Devil can take one of God's sheep out of the hand of Christ.

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." Again the word *man* is in italics, is supplied by the translator. Actually, Jesus said, "None is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Let it be clear in every mind that I do not claim to be good enough to be sure of salvation.

I am not talking about being saved by holding on to God's hand. I am talking about being saved by being held in His hand.

I am not talking about perseverance, though I long to persevere in serving Christ and pleasing Him. No, my salvation is based not on perseverance but on preservation.

I am not boasting in a salvation that I can keep by "paying the price." Thank God, Christ Himself has already paid the price for my eternal redemption. I did not deserve salvation before I got it. I have never deserved it thirty seconds since. It was all of grace at first. It is all of grace now.

I am one sheep that does not base my hope of getting safe home to the fold on keeping myself on the right path. I have been found by the Shepherd and laid on His shoulders and I am carried home by His faithful strength and His loving care. The Great Shepherd never forsook a sheep. The Lord Jesus has prayed for every one of us and will not let us go. The Father's love has never, never given us up, and never will. The Holy Spirit lives in our bodies and will until we breathe our last, and then, when the trumpet sounds, the same Holy Spirit that raised up Christ will quicken our mortal bodies. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are combined to make sure that we are never forsaken, never cast out, never left alone!

And now in conclusion let me urge upon you to rejoice in this blessed, blessed salvation. Do not be afraid to go anywhere that Jesus leads. You will never be alone. Do not be afraid of any danger. Livingstone was as safe in wildest Africa with God with him as he would have been back in England. Elijah was as safe with Jezebel swearing that he would die by the morrow's night, as if all the king's armies were protecting him. God was with him. The dungeon is freedom if God is there. Poverty is riches if one but realizes his wealth in the continual presence of God. The Christian who realizes this truth is ready for all the darts that Satan can hurl, ready for the blackest night of sorrow that can ever come. There is no need to fret about provisions. Rather, "be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Do not be afraid of men. Do not be afraid of war. Do not be afraid of the atomic bomb. We may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

I've seen the lightning flashing,
And heard the thunder roll—

I've felt sin's breakers dashing
Trying to conquer my soul—
I've heard the voice of Jesus,
Telling me still to fight on,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

The world's fierce winds are blowing
Temptations sharp and keen—

I feel a peace in knowing—
My Saviour stands between.
He stands to shield me from

Samson--The Heavyweight Champion Who Lost His Title

(Continued from Page 1)

all but one. The feeble-minded boy did not run. He was literally scared stiff and could not move! The driver of the car honked the horn and yelled but when the boy did not move he applied the brakes and, after skidding all over the road, managed to stop the car within inches of the boy whose companions then pulled him to safety.

"Run when you see a car coming," they told him. "You'll be killed if you don't." And his parents told him, "Keep off the highway or a fast car will run over you." But the poor boy said to himself, "That car was afraid to hit me—I must be different from all these other fellows." And he decided to test his theory.

He waited until another car was coming and then deliberately walked out in front of it! The driver honked but when the boy did not move, stopped the car. He bawled the boy out and the young fellow walked off the road but he had proven something to his own satisfaction—he was different! The cars that ran over other people were afraid of him! And so he made a game of it. He would hide behind the bushes and then jump out in front of cars for the fun of it. Everyone warned him and pled with him but he would not quit. He felt sure he was different and would not be hurt.

One day he was hiding behind the bushes waiting for a car when he heard the whistle of the great train that also came down the mountainside. If it was fun to stop a car, he thought, it would be more fun to stop a train! So he ran quickly to the tracks and jumped in front of the train. The fireman and engineer both leaned out their windows and yelled as they blew the whistle and rang the bell but the boy would not move. The thundering train bore down on him and hit him with such terrific force that it literally knocked him to pieces! He was killed because he thought he was different and could not be harmed by those things that destroyed others.

It was this same thought that destroyed Samson. He believed that he could sin and get by. He thought he was different. He knew that the Scripture taught, "Be sure your sin will find you out," but he thought that was for the other fellow. He ignored the lesson of all history that tells us neither nations nor individuals can escape the results of sin. He would not even listen to the voice of current events that plainly taught then, as now, that only fools make a mock of sin. He thought he was stronger and smarter than others. That he was

danger,
When earthly friends are gone,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

When in affliction's valley
I'm treading the road of care,

My Saviour helps me to carry
My cross when heavy to bear.

My feet entangled with briars
Ready to cast me down,
My Saviour whispers His promise:

"I never will leave thee alone."

He died for me on the mountain—
For me they pierced His side—

For me He opened that fountain,
The crimson, cleansing tide.
For me He's waiting in Glory,
Seated upon His throne,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

CHORUS

No, never alone,
No, never alone,
He promised never to leave me—
Never to leave me alone.

different. That he could sin and get by.

This is one of the oldest tricks of the Devil. The Bible, history and current events tell us that "the wages of sin is death" and that "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," and, "Be sure your sin will find you out." But if Satan can make you believe you can lie, cheat, steal, kill, reject Christ or commit any other sin and get by with it; if he can make you believe you are too smart to get caught or too strong to be overcome, he has blinded you. He has you exactly where he wants you! You are a fool! For after you are blind to sin, you will experience

II. The Binding of Sin

You are not any different from thousands of other blind fools. You are really only a common, ordinary, every-day human being and you are subject to the same results of sin as every other human being. Your sin will find you out. This is a law and it works every time. It is as real as the law of gravity. If you hold this paper above your head and then release it, it will ultimately fall. A gust of wind may hold it for a minute or so but eventually it is going to come down. That is the law of gravity. And you may be just as sure that your sins will find you out. The sin

you indulge in will soon enslave you, will become a habit that will bind you, that will ruin your life and damn your soul.

Drunkness

I stood one day on Clark Street in Chicago looking at a drunken bum lying unconscious in the gutter before a saloon. He was covered with vomit. His clothes were filthy. He was unshaven and his open mouth revealed toothless gums. His shoes had holes in them. He looked and smelled a filthy mess.

Suddenly two young men in their late teens or early twenties came walking across the street. They saw the drunk, laughed, wisecracked about his condition and, walking up to him, deliberately stepped over his body onto the sidewalk and made for the door of the saloon. "Hey, fellows," I said, "don't go in there. Look what happened to this man because of drink. Do you want to wind up in the gutter with your money gone, your health gone, honor gone, friends gone—a thing of ridicule and pity? Do you want to turn out like that?"

They looked at me with utter contempt as they replied, "Do you think we are fools? We'll never be like him. He didn't have enough sense to know when he had enough. He didn't have any will power. But we are different. We know when to quit. If you want to preach to someone, Tall Boy, preach to him—we don't need it." And they went into the saloon.

I could not help but think how in America there are thousands of drunkards and yet few of

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Samson--The Heavyweight Champion Who Lost His Title

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them, if any, deliberately planned it that way. Each drinking man feels he knows too much to ever get in the habit, that he has too much will power to ever become unable to quit. They are blind to their danger and soon become drunkards, bound by their sin, enslaved to the drink-habit, a habit they would give anything in the world to break.

Adultery

Several years ago I rode across the great whirlpool down the river from Niagara Falls. As I took moving pictures of that boiling, seething cauldron of water an old man watched me from the shore. When I returned, he proudly said to me, "Young feller, do you know I have pulled more bodies out of that water than any other living man?" I asked him if folks sometimes fell in and he replied no, they sometimes jumped in. Usually, he said, they were girls.

Everyone knows that there are several thousand suicides reported among American girls every year. Often they are unmarried girls who are about to become mothers.

Why do so many girls (and boys) travel the road that leads to adultery and shame and, often, death? It is common knowledge that sexy movies, social dances and necking (especially in parked cars) lead, time and time again, to adultery. So why don't our young people avoid such pitfalls?

It is because they believe they are different. A girl knows that often filthy movies do harm but she will not let them affect her. A girl knows necking is dangerous but tells herself her case is different—that this boy really loves her and is going to marry her someday! And so, blind to the results and feeling secure in the belief that she is superior to other girls, she goes ahead and soon falls into the scarlet sin and is enslaved. Her sin leads to a broken heart, blasted dreams, a ruined life, sometimes violent death and eternity in Hell.

Stealing

I stood one day talking with seven 'teen-age boys in a city jail. They had been caught stealing a car. As I talked with them, I said, "Fellows, you all know that thieves get caught sooner or later. Why in the world did you think you could steal a car and get by with it?"

They told me their story. They had not intended to become car thieves. They began by stealing gasoline. Then a spare tire. Then, finally, a car. They had intended to steal just one and never do it again. But they seemed to get by with it so easily. The man who bought the car urged them to steal another, telling them they were too smart to get caught. But they found they were no more clever than countless other crooks. They were caught. A short time later their broken-hearted parents saw them taken away to a reform school. Their sin had bound them.

Godless Marriages

In all revivals I have learned to expect one thing—broken-hearted Christians who have married unsaved people. Literally hundreds of people have come to ask me to pray for their unsaved wives and husbands. Time and again I have heard how the unsaved mate has gone farther and farther into sin, often taking the children with him.

Why does a Christian ever marry an unsaved person? Doesn't the Bible plainly tell us not to become "unequally yoked together with unbelievers"? Doesn't the Bible tell about the great flood that came as a result of Christian men marrying unsaved women? And haven't all of us known of homes that were broken because husband and wife were not both saved? (One such woman called on the 'phone while I was actually writing the above words!) Then why will a saved person marry an unbeliever?

It is because they make themselves believe that their cases are different and therefore justified.

Some years ago a girl went so far as to tell me she felt she ought to marry an unsaved man because he was an atheist! She felt, she said, that he could not be blamed for being unsaved since he did not even believe there was a God and that she owed it to God and to the man to marry him! (I suggested she did not need to consult a preacher but a psychiatrist since, plainly, she was crazy.)

She said she loved him but she would not have fallen in love with an unsaved man if she had not been running around with an unsaved crowd. Besides, loving him would not justify marriage. I would love to have a new airplane but I do not intend to steal one! That would not be right and if it isn't right, it's wrong. A Christian simply has no right to marry an unsaved person. And if you are blind to this sin, you will find yourself bound in misery for life.

Rejecting Christ

Thousands of people have been blind to the importance of accepting Christ. They have rejected the Saviour so long that their hearts are hard and cold. They feel, vaguely, that they will someday turn to Christ and be saved. But they do not feel any urgency in the matter—aren't they too smart to miss being saved? Don't they have more sense than to die without the Saviour?

And yet many do die without Christ and without hope daily. Let me beg everyone who is reading this to think seriously for just a minute. Do you honestly believe any man or woman has ever deliberately determined to go to Hell? I seriously doubt it. And yet many men do die without Christ. Don't they know there is a Hell? Yes, most men do. And don't they know they are going to die sometime? Yes, all men do. Then why aren't they saved? Because they have been bound by the sin of neglect. They feel there is plenty of time. That they will be saved next Sunday, or the next revival campaign, or next year or some other time. And that is just exactly the way to go to Hell forever! Satan doesn't care if you intend to be saved some time just as long as you decide not to be saved now.

Salvation is important and it is so important you should not even wait until you have finished reading this message to turn to Christ and be saved.

III. The Grinding for Sin

There is something especially ironical about this: when Samson was captured he was blinded and bound and then his enemies took him to their prison and put him to work grinding food for them. He was preparing food for his enemies. He was making a living for them! How typical this is of the man enslaved by sin!

Many of us have looked into a saloon and seen men walk up to the bar and plunk down money for drink. We have seen pot-bellied bartenders pick up the money and give the customer a drink. I always wish the drinker could realize what a foolish thing he is doing. He is actually paying the bartender to ruin his own life.

Any liquor seller is the enemy of God and of decent people. His avowed intention is to sell you liquor that will ruin your life and those of your loved ones. He does not care that the drink habit may prevent your ever turning to Christ. How foolish and how wicked, then, that any man should patronize him for in doing so you are desperately harming yourself while helping the enemy of God! That is what Samson did. He actually prepared food to keep his enemies alive! The horrible grinding of sin!

Samson's Death

You know the story of Samson's death. How his hair grew out again. How he prayed to God for strength again that he might avenge himself on those who had blinded him, and how he pulled the building down on them, killing both himself and his enemies. He had lived a wicked life and he died with wicked men, although,

evidently, he had repented of his sins.

If Samson could bring us a message today, I have no doubt but that he would earnestly warn you to turn from your sins to the Saviour. He would remind you that no one is so strong or smart that he can sin and escape the penalty.

A True Story

Let me illustrate this entire message with one true story as I finish. In a little Texas town there lived two boys—let us call them Tom and Bill. In high school they were the warmest of friends. Tom was a star athlete and excelled in football, basketball, running, etc. He was not especially handsome but always dressed neatly, expensively and was the most popular boy in the ninth grade. His parents were fairly well-to-do.

Bill was not popular, was not a good athlete and his parents could not afford even nice clothing for him. But he and Tom loved one another sincerely and were inseparable friends.

Then came the day that Bill's parents died and Bill had to leave the little town to go to West Texas where he was to finish school. It was a sad day when he and Tom told one another good-bye but they both agreed that they would finish high school and then both attend Decatur College where they would be roommates. And this they did.

When the time came that both had been graduated from high school they both went to Decatur Baptist College and were roommates. They could not pal around together as much as formerly, however, because Bill had to work for his room and board and tuition. He milked cows, laundered shirts for other college boys, worked in a grocery store, did odd jobs, etc. Tom's parents paid his way and he did not work but spent a few hours studying and a good many hours having one whale of a good time. As in high school, he became a great favorite with his classmates and when the college annual came out, had a prominent place as a student most likely to succeed in life.

And then came the night that Tom staggered to their room drunk. He was thoroughly ashamed of himself as Bill helped him into bed, and through drunken tears vowed he would never touch another drop of liquor. But he did. He ran around with the same gang and it was not long until he not only drank habitually but said he saw no harm in it and urged Bill to drink, too.

It was not long afterwards that Tom came home one night after a date with his gang and confessed to Bill that he had, that night, gone into deeper sin. He blushed as he told his roommate he had gone into adultery. He was ashamed of himself and said he would never, never, do it again. But he did and before long, he was declaring he saw nothing wrong in a "little fun" and was urging Bill to join up with his gang and have "fun," too.

He had also picked up the gambling habit.

Tom told Bill that his gang was teasing him because he had a "parson" for a roommate. He told Bill to either join up with him and his gang or he would find another roommate.

They were "tough" days for Bill. His parents had been Christians and had led him to Christ when he was but a boy. They had taught him the Bible and warned him that his sins would find him out. And yet he envied Tom with all his heart. Tom didn't wear overalls to college classrooms—he bought swell clothes with gambling money. And Tom was so happy-go-lucky—he never worried about money he owed, he let the other fellow worry about it! And Tom was having a glorious time running around with his loose-moraled gang. Furthermore, Tom was sinning and getting by with it! He was still the most popular boy on the campus.

It was a hard battle for Bill but finally he made his decision: he would stay by the teaching of God and the Bible like Mother and Father had taught him. He told Tom of his decision and Tom

moved to another room and another roommate. Bill faced the heartless teasing of the other students who called him "deacon" or "Reverend" or "Father." Most of them had never cared too much for Bill anyway, this young fellow who so often came to class in overalls and who did not even own a complete suit of clothes.

At the end of the year both boys left college and did not make any effort to keep track of one another. Bill entered the ministry, spent two years in preparation, married a lovely girl and became pastor of a little church. After a time a baby was born into his home and he was supremely happy. He was in the Lord's work, was pastor of a church, had a wonderful wife and a precious baby—what more could any man want?

When the baby was three months old, Bill took his little family to a Bible conference in Ft. Worth. He drove up to the church, his wife and baby went inside and he was locking the car when he noticed a bum leaning against a post across the street. He turned to go into the building when someone yelled, "Bill!" He turned and looked but saw no one he knew among the throng passing by. The bum was now walking across the street towards him. He turned again to enter the building when again someone yelled, "Hey, Bill!" Again he turned and again he saw no one he knew. He was turning away again when the bum stepped upon the sidewalk and cried, "Bill—Bill! Don't you know me, Bill?" He swept his battered hat from his head and sandy hair fell down across his forehead and Bill recognized him—it was Tom! Tom, the most popular boy on the campus! Tom, who thought he could sin and get by with it! Tom, who was now a bum on the streets of Ft. Worth! Tom whose sin had found him out!

Bill put an arm around his old friend and took him to the Y. M. C. A. where he bought him food, a bath, a shave and haircut and had his clothes cleaned up. He talked to him of God who loved sinners so much He gave His only son to die for them, and Tom accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, trusting Jesus to forgive his sins and save his soul.

Good neighbors, the wages of sin is death. God says so and do not let the Devil make you believe otherwise. No matter who you are, no matter what your name is, no matter where you go to church—always remember that Satan will do his wicked best to blind and delude you on this matter in order that you may be bound by your sins and serve the Devil which will result in the damnation of your life and your soul.

That is why I urge, with all the sincerity of my heart, that you turn right now from your sins to Jesus and trust Him to save your soul.

My Decision for Christ

Dear sinner, you have read the above sermon by Evangelist William H. Rice. Now if you will turn from your sin and take Christ as Saviour we would like to hear from you. God loves you. Christ died for you. If you will honestly turn to Him in your heart, depend on Him to forgive your sins, risk Him to be your own Saviour, He will do it today. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). That means God loves you. Christ died for you. If you believe on Him, risk Him, depend on Him, commit your soul to Him, then He will save you this moment. Oh, I beg you, do it right now. Risk Him as you would risk a doctor if you were sick, as you would risk a bank with your money. Jesus never turned down a penitent sinner. If you will take Christ as your

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Evangelist John R. Rice

214 West Wesley St.

Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read the sermon by your brother, Evangelist William H. Rice, on "Samson, the Heavyweight Who Lost His Title." I confess myself a poor lost sinner. I know that sin does not pay. So here and now I repent of my sins and trust Jesus Christ to save my soul. This very moment I surrender to Him and depend upon Him and receive Him as my own personal Saviour. With His help I intend to live for Him the rest of my life, as a Christian.

Signed

Address

Date

Jesus Is Coming!

"I will come again." He Who said that also said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." Remember, Jesus did not say, "I think I will come again," or "Possibly I will be back sometime," or "If nothing happens I will be coming back." He said unequivocally, "I will come again." He knew His purpose. He knew what He was going to do. He still knows. He will come again.

—BOB JONES, Sr.

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Sword Book Club NEWS

Bread from Bellevue Oven

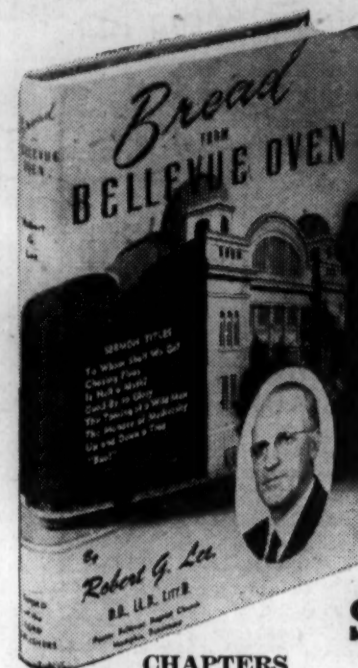
By ROBERT G. LEE, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D.

For the March Selection, the Sword Book Club proudly presents this brand new book by the famous southern preacher, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. Our other judges, as a whole, seemed to agree with Dr. Hyman Appelman, who said, "Well, any book by Dr. Lee ought to be first, shouldn't it?"

Dr. Lee has been nearly twenty years pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church. He was called without a trial sermon, seen by only three members of the church before he was called. The growth of the church under his tremendous leadership is indicated by the record of additions during the years he has been there—during nineteen years additions have averaged over 630 a year. During the nineteenth year alone, last year, there were one thousand additions, and of these 373 were new converts.

Dr. Lee is probably the greatest orator among Southern Baptists today, and he is certainly, as Dr. Bradbury says, one of the great preachers of all time. For a life-changing thrill, for a new experience in reading sermons, and for a real stirring of your heart, you will want this book of sermons. You cannot afford to miss this book! Beautiful cloth binding.

March Selection



188 Pages
\$2.00

CHAPTERS

1. TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?
2. CHASING FLEAS.
3. IS HELL A MYTH?
4. GOOD-BY TO GLORY.
5. THE TAMING OF A WILD MAN.
6. THE MENACE OF MEDIOCRITY.
7. UP AND DOWN A TREE.
8. "BOO!"

REPORT OF THE JUDGES

Dr. John W. Bradbury, Editor, Watchman-Examiner, says: "Sermons from one of the greatest of evangelical preachers of all time are always welcome. Here is golden oratory employed to make truth lucid and to win the sinner to Christ. Dr. Lee's poetic and challenging utterances create conviction of sin in sinners and inspire adoration for the Lord in the hearts of saints. Sermons such as these carry a fervor even while read, that makes one wonder what blessings fell when they were spoken."

Dr. T. Roland Phillips, pastor, Arlington Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland: "This is a book of eight sermons delivered by the popular pastor of a great church. They blessed thousands when they were delivered and they will bless other thousands who are not able

to attend Dr. Lee's church. They are all true to the evangelical faith, and abound in helpful illustrations and soul stirring appeals. A special book to put in the hands of your unsaved friends."

Dr. V. Raymond Edman, President, Wheaton College: "An outstanding contribution, deserving of a wide hearing."

Evangelist William H. Rice: "This is a remarkable book from cover to cover—in fact, the covers are remarkable, too, with the title and Dr. Lee's autograph in gold, and a two-page picture of the great church in which these sermons were delivered on the jacket. These messages are written with all the fiery eloquence, wholesome humor, colorful metaphor, scholarly arrangement, convincing logic, homiletical perfection, God-given

conviction and soul-stirring power so characteristic of this Pulpit Prince. These sermons will convict of sin and turn the lost to repentance. They will strengthen Christians. They will teach all. Many, I believe, will find the message, 'Is Hell a Myth?' an eye-opener, will rededicate themselves to Christ on reading 'Goodby to Glory', or will turn to Christ upon reading other of the soul-winning chapters of the book.

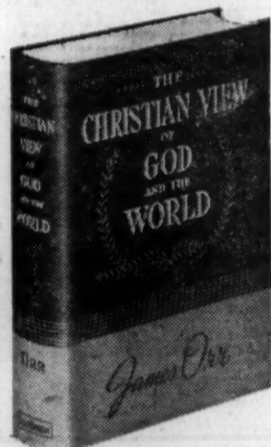
"It would be hard to overestimate the worth of these sermons—they are probably among the greatest ever published."

Dr. John R. Rice, in his introduction to the book: "If you have not had the privilege of hearing Dr. Lee in person, I am sorry for you. The scholarly thoroughness, the wizardry of words, the lilt of poetic thought, the exalted idealism,

the tender pathos, the practical application, the stern devotion to divine truth, the holy urgency in the preaching of a man called and anointed of God to preach and who must therefore preach, are never to be forgotten. The stately progression of the sermon to its logical end satisfies. The facile language, the alliterative statement, the powerful conviction that mark Dr. Lee's sermons, the scholarly gleaming of incident and illustration from the treasures of scholarly memory and library make a rich feast for the hearer. The banquet table is spread with bread from many a grain field, honey distilled from the nectar of far-off exotic blossoms, sweetmeats from many a bake shop, strong meat from divers markets, and the whole board is garnished by posies from a thousand gardens. Often have I been blessed

in hearing Dr. Lee preach, have delighted in his southern voice and have been carried along with joy by his anointed eloquence.

... "Dr. Lee would not be happy and his ministry would not be presented in the proper light if I did not remind the reader that Dr. Lee is an old-fashioned Bible preacher and preaches the old-fashioned gospel of Jesus Christ by the blood of Christ. He never trims, never hedges, never dodges in his loyalty to the inspiration of the Bible, the virgin birth and deity and bodily resurrection of the Saviour and in faithful insistence that men must be born from above to enter the kingdom of God. . . . May God bless these earnest Bible messages, so challenging, so fervent, so sweet with heavenly aroma to the heart of every reader!"



March Alternate A Christian View of God and the World

By JAMES ORR

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Dr. Robert G. Lee says: "This 480-page book contains nine lectures, with notes on each lecture, dealing with Christianity in its entirety or as a system rather than considering it from any particular aspect or doctrine. The object of the lectures is to present a defense against the attacks that are being made today upon Christianity—such attacks having ceased to be ones of opposition to detail, but have developed into opposition of principle. Dr. Orr admits that he has taken upon himself a gigantic task, one that is wide and vague, but evidently he excels in this type of challenge, for he has most assuredly produced food for full grown men to be nourished upon, and not babes. Only our deepest thinkers and most profound scholars can properly evaluate this book."

Dr. V. Raymond Edman says: "For thoughtful and scholarly readers of the Book Club, Orr's book would be eagerly received. This is an unusually good reprint of that classic."

Dr. T. Roland Phillips says: "This is a reprint, in larger type and better binding, of a book which has been a classic for more than fifty years. Dr. Orr was a profound scholar and in these lectures he gives to the humble believer in an unanswerable fashion a 'reason for the faith that is in him.' This is not a book to be read and then tossed aside. It is one that will be in constant use for the strengthening of one's faith and for the answers that the Christian must constantly give to those who assail that faith. This book ought to be in the library of every Christian who desires to be intelligent about his Christian convictions."

Dr. John W. Bradbury says: "Since the greatest need of the Christian church is the clearest knowledge of God, the reprinting of this important book on the subject is timely and valuable. The return to evangelical theology requires interpretative literature. Here is serious, profitable reading which leads to an understanding faith."

Evangelist William H. Rice says: "Dr. Orr was one of the greatest Christian scholars of his day and was a firm believer in the Virgin birth, the deity of Christ, the inspiration of the Bible, etc., and his background and training prepared him as a powerful defender of the faith."

"This book is an apologetic—a defense—of the gospel. From logical reasoning Dr. Orr shows the wisdom of accepting the Christian view concerning the existence of God, the origin of man, the nature of sin, the deity of Christ, redemption from sin and future life."

"This is heavy reading. It cannot be read easily as a novel. But every one willing to pay the price of studying these pages will find his faith strengthened and will be able to give more clearly reason for the hope that is within him."

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